APPENDIX E.

GENTLEMEN,

Before I proceed to deal with the speech of the gentlemen who introduced the subject of the abolition of the Health Department yesterday, I will say a word or two in reply to what has been said on the general question this morning. With Mr. Venkataramaiya's remarks in general, temperate and judicious as they were, I for the most part agree. But the fact that he goes back to the time of my late friend Mr. Venkatavaradaiengar shows that he deals with somewhat ancient history; and so far as I know; friction such as he speaks of as existing in a certain Municipality in those days may be said to have no existence at the present time. With this gentleman's view that the Health Department should bear in mind its essentially educational function, I am in complete accord. Mr. Raghavachar complains of the delay in the transaction of business experienced as an outcome of the fact that in Municipalities possessing Health Officers, the Health Officer is Vice-President for sanitary affairs. But there need be no such delay if matters concerning health are disposed of by the Health Vice-President and the President, instead of sending such matters to the Revenue Vice-President, a procedure which seems to me quite absurd. The President is the only officer who by position and experience is capable of dealing with health matters in consultation with his Health Officer, and to oblige the latter to recognize the Revenue Vice-President in any sense his superior is unreasonable and derogatory to his position, and must be expected to cause friction and delay. The President alone should be regarded as the Health Officer's superior, and he alone should dispose of matters concerning health and not the Vice-President for Revenue affairs. Then it is entirely wrong to depute tax collection to the Health Department. In days gone by this was a custom in Bangalore City, and many a time have I seen the subordinates of this Department gadding about peoples' houses trying to collect taxes, while the drains and streets lay utterly neglected. I agree with the learned Mr. Anniah Pandit in his view as to the necessity for the Health Officer being a local man acquainted with the vernacular and with the local customs. I think however we have only one officer who does not come fully within these requirements; but he is gradually acquiring the vernacular and I hope that before long he will not have to use an interpreter. Government have also ruled, on my advice, that if it ever becomes again necessary to employ foreigners from other Provinces they shall pass a satisfactory examination in Kanarese before the expiry of 12 months from date of appointment.

The gentlemen who moved the abolition of the Department of Public Health yesterday was somewhat discursive in his remarks, but on the whole his arguments may be said to have been in support of the following main points:—

1. That a lot of money was being spent, in return for which no result was visible.
2. That the minor and poorly paid sanitary officials, *viz.*, the Sanitary Inspectors, sweepers, etc., could do all that was necessary under the orders of the Amildar.
3. That things went on quite as well, if not better, before the Health Department was heard of, than since that event.

In regard to the first point, the invisibility of results, the speaker may, I think, be excused for his want of information on this point. It may; of course, be taken for granted that he has not travelled far beyond his own hearth to see what sanitation has done throughout the world. It may also perhaps be possible that he has not had the necessary early education himself in sanitary matters to appreciate or grasp what sanitary improvements really consist in. In either, or both cases he must be expected to be unable to see results. He is also perhaps under the happy delusion that things are now just what they always were in the towns and villages of Mysore. Yet there cannot be a single thoughtful man present, over 40 years of age, who, if he casts his mind back a little will not find that in many places the change for the better has been so great that the places themselves are no longer recognisable. If our friend went from place to place as I do, visiting them at

intervals of one or two years, he would, I feel sure have very different views to lay before us. I cannot mention names or places here, lest it might be invidious, but I well know one or two towns that, for the most part are almost unrecognisable, as compared to what they were even ten years ago and the Heads of the districts concerned would be the last to under-value the advice they have received from their Sanitary officers, following which these improvements have been effected. Now, the result which we all expect to see from sanitary effort is an increased birth-rate, and that of children destined to live, and a diminished death-rate. I have no figures that I would venture to give in regard to these matters, for our Registration Department has not yet been organised in such a way as to give us reliable figures, yet I am perfectly certain that matters are improved, and results such as I have indicated have been achieved. We, in a way, indeed, hardly want figures to support this statement. We know well, that in other countries where sanitation has been recognised practically such results have been achieved, and I see nothing in India to indicate that she will not respond equally satisfactorily to sanitary methods that have proved so useful elsewhere. But it takes time for results to become so marked that even the man in the street can appreciate them. For long neglect of sanitary methods tells its tale in more ways than one and one way is in producing a populace with constitutions so defective, that liability to disease, and early death must stand out prominently amongst them for a long time after sanitation has assumed even a high state of perfection.

An old man was once asked what he thought would be the best way to be strong and live long. He replied "Take care to choose a healthy father and mother," and so the unhealthy product of centuries of insanitation must disappear under the influence of sanitation, before sanitation produce the results—it must inevitably produce that is, increased birth-rate of children destined to live and a generally diminished death-rate.

2. Our friend's second point, that a class of men with the minimum of sanitary qualification, working under the Amildars who have no sanitary qualifications will do all that is necessary for the public weal from a sanitary point of view, hardly requires serious treatment. It is too unreasonable, and indicates a total want of appreciation of the problem to be faced. I think he said that the work of these men could be well supervised by the District Medical and Sanitary Officers if these had the necessary training. But that is just what has been found impossible the world over, and so clinical, medicine and preventive medicine are everywhere being separated; for two reasons, *viz.*, (1) so as to have men in charge of sanitation who are not only trained, but whose whole time is devoted to sanitation, securing increasing efficiency in their work by constant devotion to it and reaping the benefit of the experience thus gained, (2) so as to have men in independent position in such on all important trust—men who shall not be afraid to attack the rich man in his stronghold lest he lose him as a prolific source of income when disease attacks his family. But our friend's notion of what sanitation really means is very primitive, if his speech has been reported to me correctly. He appears to think that collecting leaves and rubbish in the streets is the sum of sanitation, and therefore that all you want is sweepers and somebody to see that they do sweep. Well, if there is nothing I fight against more than another during my tours it is just that waste of time that everywhere goes on in sweeping streets for that is not sanitation but I am not going to give a lecture on sanitation, and if our friend wants to know what sanitation is, let him go and take out a course at some respectable school and I am sure he will come away thoroughly disillusioned. The extraordinary, amusing, and grotesque notions possessed by the average individual that he knows everything about sanitation that is worth knowing, is one of the puzzles of alienists; as well might I plume myself with the notion that I could conduct a case in the court or make an English Lever watch! How inconsistent our friends are! When their watches go wrong they send them to the dhoby for repairs, don't they? and yet the infinitely more important matter of sanitation they should place in the hands of unskilled men. Portugal has had enough of such sanitarians and what is the very first thing the new Government proposes to do it is to organise their sanitary service. And what are they doing in Japan? Are they content with two penny, half-penny, old time methods? Does the Government there take the advice of one of their distinguished lawyers in such matters.! If any such presumed to interfere in such sacred matters harikeri would be his doom! No, in Japan as in England and

now in Mysore, Government prefers to take the advice of men who really have studied the matter in hand and not of these who merely *fancy* they know. Advisers of this sort are most dangerous. For theirs is the unfathomable ignorance of the man who does not even know that he is ignorant. But Mysore must take heart. Not in her alone do we find the man who would fain cling to obsolete methods. He is found everywhere. But happily the common sense of the public is too much for him and he presently finds himself alone, in outer darkness.

3. His third point was that things went on just as well before as since the introduction of the Health Department. A great misconception is involved here. It involves the underlying idea that sanitation began in Mysore with the inauguration of a separate department of public health. This is not merely a misconception but a fallacy. All that was done in 1907 was the acceptance of the incontrovertible principle that organised sanitation conducted by trained men alone, and by men devoted to sanitation alone, would be more useful than the desultory methods hitherto in vogue.

No slight was meant to be cast on the men who had worked so well but under so many disadvantages hitherto. By organisation is meant the production of a living thing with all its members complete. This could not obviously be produced out of the old material. So new material had to be introduced and this necessarily involved increased cost. The speaker knew very well that for a good article you must pay handsomely. But also that the good article will "pay" in the long run. He objects to paying *for more advice.* Is that consistent from a lawyer or would it be consistent from a Doctor? What are lawyers and doctors doing all their days but merely giving advice. But our clients must pay, especially the lawyers'! We can't compel them to take our advice, but we expect them to do so as they have paid for it. So with sanitation. The people will soon learn there must be something in it as they have to pay for it, and as it is regarded as so important that special men, specially trained, have to be engaged to give them the advice. The sanitary officer is a great educational officer and the less the bamboo has to be used in sanitation and in general education the better. Our friend thinks the sanitary officer is useless because he cannot cane the villager into obedience but can only advise. I fear he belongs to a very old school, older than mine, for a cane was never seen inside the school at which I was dragged up! I hate canes and abuse and julum in general; and I believe and constantly preach it, that if the Inspector-General of Education and his staff will work cordially with the Sanitary Commissioner and his staff, the Revenue or Police officer will very seldom need be called in; and if the lawyer would come in and help us to form a tripple alliance with the great object of educating the people in health matters, success would be still further assured.

Now bear in mind that sanitation did not begin in Mysore with the inauguration of the Public Health Department. The methods and teachings are the same, but we have now *organisation* to back them up. There is no use therefore in comparing the condition of affairs that existed immediately before the Public Health Department was introduced and that since. We must compare the state of affairs that existed before English Sanitary ideas were introduced at all and what now exists. I leave my friend to institute this comparison for himself and ruminate over it a little. Does he want to go back to the old state of affairs? He certainly lays himself open to a speculation of this sort. But of course he does not. In his heart of hearts he rejoices at what has been accomplished, and I am certain the same but more intense feelings will animate his grandchildren when they look back on the work of fifty years achieved by an organised and independent Department of Public Health.

One other small matter I would invite attention to, but very important, and that is that as yet we have no complete Health Department and that therefore it is rather unfair to criticise it at all. We are building up such a department as fast as we can get qualified officers for the purpose. We are completing it in the various districts one by one. Kolar is as yet the only complete district. I have said that the department is essentially educative; and to carry this idea to a fulfilment I propose that the Health Officer shall hold lectures at frequent intervals in the various villages with lantern demonstrations, etc. This is done throughout the sanitary world, but probably the Japanese carry it to a higher point of perfection than any other nation and our aim here is *to go ahead* if possible and where this is not possible to follow the lines of *the most advanced.*